
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5003

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD AND FAMILY NUTRITION.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits anyone from selling, or offering for sale, to any local or regional education board, or in any public school, a food product whose name and branding on its packaging is the same or similar to one available for retail sale but has different ingredients or nutritional value per portion.

The bill also requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to administer its child nutrition outreach program in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). As under existing law, SDE must administer the program, within available appropriations, to increase (1) participation in the federal School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, and Child and Adult Care Food programs and (2) federal reimbursement for these programs.

By law, SDE's outreach program must, among other things, encourage child care centers and group and family day care homes to participate in the Child and Adult Food Care program. The bill specifies that this includes sharing relevant data between OEC and SDE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 320) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported out a substitute that replaced the prior bill and eliminated provisions:

1. requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop and implement a plan to streamline cross-enrollment of children

- receiving HUSKY A in the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Connecticut Farmers' Market nutrition program for women, infants and children (Connecticut Farmers' Market WIC);
2. requiring the Department of Social Services (DSS) to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture (DoAg), DPH, and SDE to take certain actions to decrease hunger in the state;
 3. prohibiting the governor from reducing certain allotments for administering SNAP, WIC, and the Connecticut Farmers' Market WIC;
 4. requiring DPH and DSS to enter into a memorandum of understanding to share HUSKY A and WIC enrollment data, perform outreach to potential enrollees, and establish a process for children to transition from WIC to SNAP;
 5. requiring DPH to create, for certain health care providers, educational materials on WIC benefits and a one-page fact sheet on program eligibility requirements;
 6. requiring DPH to collaborate with DSS and UConn to develop and implement a nutrition education program for WIC participants;
 7. requiring DoAg to annually develop and distribute to farmers' markets educational materials on the benefits of participating in the Connecticut Farmers' Market WIC program;
 8. requiring DPH to annually report to the Human Services and Public Health committees on its plan for spending federal funding to administer WIC; and
 9. requiring specified state agencies to jointly develop a plan to implement interagency and cross-program initiatives to increase access to state nutrition-related programs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/20/2024)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 53 Nay 0 (04/22/2024)